

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 06937 152153Z

15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY OF CHILE DETENTIONS

REFS: A) SANTIAGO 6438; B) SANTIAGO 6053; C) SANTIAGO 5841

1. DURING OCT 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, DR. OSVALDO CORI, VICE RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S EASTERN CAMPUS (WHERE DETENTIONS REPORTED REFTELS TOOK PLACE), SAID THAT ONLY FIVE PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS REMAIN DETAINED. CORI SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE THE EXACT NUMBER, HE THOUGHT APPROXIMATELY 40 PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED. CORI STATED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE RELEASED HAVE BEEN REINSTATED AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND GAVE FIVE EXAMPLES. REF A GIVES ANOTHER, AND A HIGH RANKING UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT MOST OF THOSE DETAINED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED HAD BEEN REINSTATED.

2. CORI ANNOUNCED A NEW SLATE OF SENIOR CAMPUS OFFICIALS. WHO HE SAID HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR APPOINTMENTS "ONLY TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT." HE ALSO LAMENTED THE CONTINUING BRAIN DRAIN WHICH HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED SEVERAL PHYSICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS.

3. COMMENT: APPARENTLY GOC HAS MOVED TO REINSTATE SOME OF THOSE PROFESSORS FROM THE EASTERN CAMPUS WHO IT TURNED OUT WERE DETAINED

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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 06937 152153Z

WITHOUT CAUSE. PRESUMABLY THOSE FEW STILL DETAINED WERE IN-

VOLVED IN SOME TYPE OF ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY. FACT RE-
MAINS THAT THESE DETENTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO NEW LOWS IN ACADEMIC
COMMUNITY MORALE, AND DEMONSTRATED CONTINUING GOC INTERFERENCE
IN UNIVERSITIES.

4. RADIO MOSCOW OCTOBER 9 REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
SECOND WAVE OF ARRESTS AT EASTERN CAMPUS AND THAT TOAL NUMBER
OF DETENTIONS STANDS AT 100. EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED
NEW ARRESTS AND DOUBTS AUTHENTICITY OF REPORT.

5. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT AUGUST DETENTIONS IN UNIVERSITY WERE
NOT HARBINGER OFGENERAL PURGE. THERE WERE NEVERTHELESS PROBLEMS
IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS AT SAME TIME, AND GOC CLEARLY WILL NOT
CONDONE OPPOSITION POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.
POPPER

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